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JUL 2 3 2003 Attorney's Docket No. 018775-718 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
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Kenji ISHIBASHI et al.) Group Art Unit: 2675
)
Application No.: 08/988,537) Examiner: A. Awad
)
Filed: December 10, 1997) Confirmation No.: 7632
)
For: IMAGE OBSERVATION APPARATUS)

THIRD **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT** RECEIVED.

JUL 2 5 2003

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 **Technology Center 2600**

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

I, the undersigned, hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of the Japanese Office Action is enclosed, and it is noted that the partial translation corresponds to the paragraph cited by the Japanese Examiner.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner-initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

By:

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Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: <u>July 23, 2003</u>

Charles F. Wieland/III Registration No. 33,096

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(05/03)